





READERS' LETTERS.....READERS' LETTERS.....READERS' LETTERS

Dear David,

Many thanks for your letter and the interesting press cuttings. I have been keeping well and busy! The sighting near Haverfordwest in the Daily Mirror is one of a series. As you have probably heard there has been a lot happening in that area recently, including one case in which a vehicle was followed for about a mile by a yellow ball of light with a torch-like beam from its base. The car's engine and lights failed and the report (on March 17) has been added to the list of Vehicle Interference Cases. The project is near completion but publication timing depends on BUFORA. On the subject of Channel Island UFO reports there have been a few interesting cases over the years. There seems to be an increase in UFO Reports and publicity recently so this will no doubt help to create further interest.

Best wishes, Geoff Falla, Guernsey UFO Study Group.

Dear Mr. Rees,

As a new reader of your magazine I found the articles of much interest and wondered if readers would be interested in the experiences of myself and a friend who used the glass and alphabet method of spirit contact.

Our information from the Spirit Realms was obtained by a series of questions and answers. I asked if the Nostradamus and Mother Shipton prophecy of a great world upheaval in 1999 was true. We received the following reply:

"Sooner. 1979. Gigantic atom bomb on China by Soviet Russia". My friend and I are not particularly politically-minded and I asked my husband was there a likelihood of this Happening. He said, "Quite within the bounds" of possibility".

We then asked if UFO's were a myth and were told: "They have visited the earth from the time of the Pharaohs"; that these beings are more highly evolved than we are and that some of these people are actually living on the earth. When I asked "Where?", we were told, "In a secret place".

I asked what they were doing here and the reply was, "Keeping an eye on things". I also asked if the Masters whom the Theosophists claim are living on the earth really were here and was told "Yes".

It will be fascinating - and horrifying - if the Russo/China war comes to pass, but we were told that neither America nor Britain would interfere and we would not suffer from fall-out. That other worlds are inhabited.

I know that some people claim that such answers stem from one's own subconscious but I feel staggered over the Russian bomb business as I simply don't know enough of the world situation to be able to dream up such a statement.

If we really are in contact with Spirit entities there must be many fascinating questions we could ask. Unfortunately, my partner has now left the district and I am casting around for a congenial soul to continue the experiment with.

Every good wish for your magazine's continued success.

Yours sincerely, Florence McCluskie, Sale, Cheshire.

Dear Mr. Rees,

As you may know, UFORUM are a new group having only been formed in January of this year. Therefore we are eager to learn and hope that we may form a worthwhile association with groups such as yourselves. Our aim is to show the public the importance of UFO's and to prove to them that they are not Science Fiction, but FACT. But as our name suggests, we are not only interested in UFO's but in related mysteries, i.e. Cave Drawings, Lost Civilisations, The Bible - taken from a more scientific than religious point of view, and the Bermuda Triangle to name but a few. We also have our own Library from which members may borrow/lend their own books if wished. Our Group is not designed to answer questions once and for all because on a subject of this nature this would be totally impossible. All we can do is to give the public the facts as we see them and from these allow people to draw their own



conclusions.

Best wishes, Susal Law, Secretary, Unidentified Flying Objects and Related Unexplained Mysteries (UFORUM), Sheffield, Sth Yorks.

Dear Mr. Rees,

Your last issue of SKYWATCH was very good and very interesting. I must say that your magazine is one of the most objective and precise ones in England. I remain, yours, Enrico Ferraris, President ACQM sez. B. Alessandria, Italy.

Dear Mr. Rees,

Regarding UFO-Conferences in Denmark: up to now I can only tell you that a UFO-Camping will take place from July 16th to 22nd, 1977, at a School named Munkebjerg Skole in the middle of the country Odense. SUFOI will be 20 years old this year. We have several projects in connection with this anniversary; maybe also a conference. Of course, you will be informed about further details as soon as I know them.

With best wishes, Karen Linneballe, Secretary, Skandinavisk UFO Information, Dehmark.

Dear David,

The reason why I have been quiet for some time is: a) that nothing really interesting has happened in Belgium since New Year, although I have heard that three UFO pictures were taken over Chatelineau (near Charleroi) on the first of February, and b) I was fully occupied getting the new Flemish UFO Bulletin published. There are no conferences planned in our country - we at SPW will certainly not arrange any. If is our experience that converences demand an enormous work and the result of these meetings is very low. Nothing really interesting comes out. We do of course meet regionally from time to time with our most active members and co-workers. In this small group, discussion is much easier and serious work can be done.

Best Wishes, Rudy de Groote, Studiegroep Progressieve Wetenschappen (SPW), Belgium.

Dear Mr. Rees,

Many thanks for your MARIT "SKYWATCH" Magazine. It is excellent and very informative and up to date. No, RIGAP have no journal or newsheet. You may know that our group RIGAP is an incorporated group with Rossendale Amateur Astronomy Society - so that we all know about Stars, Planets, Meteor Showers, etc. as well as the UFO's. From 2nd Jan/77 to 30th March/77 I have had 177 reports of UFO sightings, plus another 6 in May/77. They were all UFO's and not Satellites, Planets or Stars (we know the difference!) although a Professor at Lancaster University said people were seeing Venus - this was not the case either - the Preston Weather Centre said we were seeing Balloons reflecting the Sun. This was not so either as we had done our homework and by the time we were getting (and seeing ourselves) these UFO's, the Sun would be in the Mid-Atlantic setting - or even near the American Coast. I am doing a Chronology on UFO sightings in America and elsewhere - Rumania, Russian, etc., and linking them up with N.E. Lancs sightings. I have also been asked to write for the Pendle District Library Magazine. I have seen UFO's since 1964 - but never any "Little Green Men" or other coloured men either coming from UFO's. I have not had a chance to show your SKYWATCH to the rest of our group - so for what its worth, my personal opinion is that it is up to date and an excellent production, which must take many hours to gather together.

Yours sincerely, Hyda Rogals, Co-ordinator, Rossendale Investigation Group Aerial Phenomena.

Dear David, I've never heard of any UFO Reports in Malta and when I was stationed there I read the two major papers thoroughly every day and never saw anything. But you know it is a very strict Catholic country and as such the UFO subject is taboo. Best wishes, Angela Curthy, Stoke on Trent, Staffs.



(OUT OF THIS WORLD)

Tony Glickman of Sale, Cheshire, writes: "Did you like the prog on 'UFO's? I thought it was quite good. I believe the woman on the farm who had seen a UFO over her house; but I didn't believe the man and his followers who prayed to a prayer machine which stored energy from the prayers. This I think could be misleading to people".

Ken Stanley of Oldham, writes: "I found it quite interesting. I'd never heard of that "hole in the pole" theory before and I think it quite possible. The programme itself was quite good, though, for the BBC they seem to be very objectionable to me. I cannot forget their utterly ridiculous programme on "The Bermuda Triangle" a while back".

Bob Brace, of Scunthorpe, writes: "I was utterly dismayed about the BBC1 Documentary on UFO - poor coverage - a cheap production overall - and not enough punch".

Owen Taylor, of Manchester, writes: "I did not see the television programme but I have heard one or two impressions of it. Unfortunately, they seem to have given a rather poor image by portraying the lunatic fringe".

John Rimmer (Editor of MUFOB), Surrey, writes: I thought the UFO programme was marvellously funny, as well, with Dud and Pate doing their routine up on Box Hill. I don't know the two gentlemen, but I've met their likes many times. The rest of the programme was refreshing, in that it didn't waste much time speculating on Extra Terrestrial life, and discussing lights in the sky. The producer worked on the premise that if you give people enough rope they'll hang themselves - which most of them did quite effectively. Of the UFOlogists, Bowen came over best, I thought, taking a fairly undogmatic line; but he was rather undermined by Creighton's melodramatic hints of Government interference, silencers, vampirism, and cannibalistic entities. Brinsley LPT came over as the dotty English eccentric Earl he is. A sweet old soul, no doubt, but just remember - he's one of our rulers, now!"

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YOU CAN'T MISS THE GHOSTS IN SPOOKY CORNER.....

If you don't believe in ghosts, perhaps a midnight stroll down Marple Road, Offerton, would shake you out of your disbelief. According to ANNE CROSS' new book, The Story of a Road, you can hardly take a step in that spooky corner of Stockport without passing a poltergeist or finding a phantom. At the White Houses, now sadly demolished, a Puritan child used to peer in at the kitchen window. One night there was a great noise outside as if an angry mob was breaking down the front door and rushing upstairs. The Monk's Room at Offerton Hall, was supposed to be haunted by a priest or Franciscan monk and the spirit of a Cromwellian soldier is said to haunt the hall gates. The Offerton Boggart lives in a barn down Holliday Lane, locally and picturesquely known as the Gnat Hole, and may help the housewife with her chores if she leaves him some food at night. Down Bean Leach Road, they say, you may well meet a woman gliding along above the ground with a shawl over her head and carrying a lantern. She is said to have lived in Brandy Row and is looking for her child who fell in the Poise Brook and was swept away. The Wrights Arms has a poltergeist which bangs so loudly on the floor upstairs that an alsation Guard Dog has been stricken with terror. The ghostly visitor at a house in



Offerton Green has even been set down on canvas - he's a man with rust-coloured hair in sombre Puritan garb, though, curiously, he wears a wispy feather in his hat. The lady of the house has also seen a Roman centurion, or more probably, a Romano-Briton, smiling at her in the kitchen, according to Mrs. Cross's book. Well, it keeps your mind off the washing-up, doesn't it? Mrs. Cross, of Offerton Drive, Offerton, has published the book at her own expense. "I love the place", she says. "I see things disappearing round me and I want the young people to understand what we've got and what we've lost. It's a place apart, Offerton. We're not very happy about being joined on to Stockport". And I dare say the ghosts feel the same way. Reprinted from the Manchester Evening News, 23rd February, 1977. The book "The Story of a Road" is available through MAPIT, price 50p, plus 13p postage. Also published by Anne Cross: "The Story of a House", price 25p, plus 13p postage.

MAPIT.....MAPIT.....MAPIT

..... PAPER CLIPPINGS .....

"REVEILLE" - 6th May, 1977: She Wants a Space Visitor. As I approach 50, I desperately want to meet people from another planet, but I fear time is running out for me. I was fascinated by the American landings on the Moon, but terribly upset that it was just a load of rubble and dust. Then I became excited when they put down a missile on Venus, only to discover that's an empty place, too. I envy young people, if only because one day they will experience the moment when Earthmen meet up with Out of Space Creatures and perhaps bring them back here. I doubt if it will happen in my life time. Mrs. C. Black, Prestwich, Manchester.....

"DAILY MIRROR" - 12th May, 1977: When a spaceman lands, don't be surprised if he dries like a baby - or barks like a dog! It's not his fault. He has probably been studying the language at an Intergalactic school. The Americans are planning to dispatch a couple of spacecraft to the void this summer, carrying the sounds of the Twentieth Century Earth - birdsongs, music, animal noises and babies crying....oh, yes, and the Human Voice.....

"DAILY EXPRESS" - 13th May, 1977: UFO on the Wing. A British pilot has reported seeing two UFO's "The size of battleships and nearly 300 yards long". Captain Denis Wood, 42, skipper of a British Airways Trident that flew to Portugal last July, revealed yesterday that he and two fellow officers saw a brilliant white, round object at 35,000 feet. Captain Wood, of Haslemere, Surrey, said the sighting was also made by the crew of a British Airways TriStar Portuguese pilots in another jet and ground radar operators at Lisbon. "I want to find an explanation", said Captain Wood, adding that he had used radar for 15 years but never before had he seen anything on the screen that he could not explain. Mr. Omar Fowler, chairman of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, said, "This is the most important sighting World-Wide of the past decade.....

"SUNDAY PEOPLE" - 5th June, 1977: Wanted - One Space Saucer. Wanted - an intergalactic flying saucer, ten person accommodation minimum. That was the wording of an advert placed in an Adelaide newspaper yesterday by a man who believed some Australian may have built a spacecraft in secret. ....

SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO COSMIS UNDERSTANDING, S.A.T.C.U., 33 Dee Street, Timaru, New Zealand. Publication Xenolog - September/October 1974. Editors: Fred and Phyllis Dickeson.

?RETURNED FROM THE SPACE - TIME CONTINUM?

During the month of June, 1950, in Times Square, New York, a man aged about 30, and dressed in the manner adopted many years ago, with silk hat, cutaway coat, black and white check trousers and buttoned shoes, suddenly appeared in the middle of the road intersection, gazing in amazement at the electric signs. Many people saw him, but none was able to tell where he came from. He just appeared from nowhere. Suddenly the heavy traffic unnerved him and frantically he tried to dodge it, and before anyone could help him he was knocked down by a taxi and killed. At the morgue his clothes were searched for identification



and revealed a bill from a livery stable at Lexington Avenue, quoting: "To feeding and stabling one horse and washing one carriage \$3". There were about \$70 in very old style currency notes; two gold certificates and a card bearing the name, Rudolph Fentz, with an address on Fifth Avenue, yet none of these articles showed any signs of age.

From police investigation it appeared the Fifth Avenue address was now a store and the present occupants thought it had always been a store. Nobody, it seems, had ever heard of Rudolph Fentz. No such name appeared in the directory. No one called at the morgue to claim relationship to this strange man. Finally, after exhaustive research, clues in the Missing Persons file traced back to Florida, where in 1876, Mrs. Fentz Snr., who did not like her husband smoking in the house, sent him out for a walk, when he mysteriously disappeared and was never heard of again. In the Missing Persons file of 1876, was a description of Rudolph Fentz and the address given on the card and livery bill, together with particulars of the clothing worn, all of which tallied most accurately with the man killed in Times Square, New York, in June, 1950.

Credit - BRYAN HARTLY.

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Well, hello again, members and readers. To those of you who have been on your holidays, I hope you had a good time. Did anyone see any UFO's while on holiday?

MAPIT has had THREE items in the Media recently: (1) a letter in the Manchester Evening News on the 5th May; (2) a letter in the Buxton Advertiser on the 16th June and finally (3) thanks to Angela Carthy, a letter in the Congleton Chronicle on 1st July. All these letters asked for interested persons to contact us. I'm glad to say many persons have written and the overall response has been very good. Angela is a MAPIT Member and wrote to her local newspaper about UFO's and MAPIT. Thank you, Angela, for a first class job. It sets an example to other members to do likewise - how about it?

Richard Hall, the International Co-ordinator of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) in America, wrote to MAPIT recently saying he will print our name and address in their MUFON UFO Journal in the hope that some form of information exchange might be encouraged. He also says "Any attempt at careful, scientifically-orientated study of UFO phenomena is to be applauded, and we wish you well in the pursuance of these ends".

Just a reminder to the new members that if they ever wish to contribute to SKYWATCH they are most welcome. As for that matter is anyone. Surely you, the reader, has new ideas, thoughts, on UFO's? Why not share them with us?

Not all members may be aware, but MAPIT has an offer to all members and readers if they want MAPIT tee-shirts, which are ideal for the summer months. This is not a gimmick, but a genuine attempt to make the general public aware of our existence. They come in three sizes - small, medium and large - with full washing instructions. They are £3.00 each, including postage and packing. The exact wording on the tee-shirts is: MAPIT UFO RESEARCH TEAM SKYWATCH. Obtainable from the editorial address.

Have you ever thought of starting your own scrap book of UFO Clippings? Well, the best way to start is by sending 90p to Miss Susan Stebbing, 87, Selsea Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 8SD. For this amount you will be sent a photocopied set of UFO, Supernatural and Space Mystery press clippings from USA and England, and other English-speaking countries. Well worth the money.

A mistake from the last issue: Subscription rates to Flying Saucer Review are £4.20 - not £3.35. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Available to anyone interested: SKYWATCH back issued Nos.1,2,15,16,17,18,21, 23 and 24, price 20p each. Also Skywatch Special Issue No.2 - UFO Sightings from 1973 in the North West - price 30p each. Obtainable from Editorial Address.



Bob Brace, MAPIT Member, informs us that a new Scunthorpe UFO Study Group has been set up with the aid of Nigel Watson, Ken Johnson and Bob. Their local MP, John Ellis, has asked for a probe into recent UFO Activity over Scunthorpe.

"International UFO Research Council. Anyone wishing to become actively involved in research, contact: IVFORC, (Dept S2), 146, Buckingham Road, Maghull, Liverpool. Enclose SAE, please". The latter advertisement appeared in the Musical paper "Sounds" on April 23rd. MAPIT and a few members wrote to the address given for further details. To date NO reply has been forthcoming. It is sad that a Group should advertise, then ignore correspondence. Who are IVFORC? Have they a publication? If you wrote and got a reply, MAPIT would be interested in learning more of this Group, as we always wish to co-operate with other UK Groups.

Do you like reading Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror/Occult/UFO's/Cosmology books? A large selection of all the new available titles can be obtained from Quaser Books. Authors covered includes, Adliss, Asimov, Bradbury, Clarke, Vogt, Wells, Hitchcock, Lory, Poe, Stoker, Daniken, Keyhoe, Keel, etc. Send 15p or a large SEA to Quaser Books, Flat 4, 81 Gloucester Street, London SW1.

Gene Duplaintier informs us that we have a namesake in South Africa. Also called "SKYWATCH", it is published in Durban. "They're into UFO's in a big way, too", he informs us.

Ian Sanderson, co-ordinator of the NUFON Skywatch Programme, recently sent MAPIT the 1977 details. The Skywatches are being arranged to coincide with the projected Autumn/Winter flap. The dates arranged so far are September 20th, October 15th and November 19th. Will ALL MAPIT members interested in attending any of the above dates, please contact the editorial address. Members with possible SKYWATCH sites and any equipment, i.e. optical, detectors, etc., are also urged to contact us.

The Northern UFO Network 1977 Conference is being held in Nottingham this year, by the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society. The date of this event is the 10th September. Papers by Barry King, Bernard Delair, Charles Bowen, etc. will be featured, plus many others. All lectures to be profusely illustrated and exhibitions will also take place. Tickets are only 50p; coffee and biscuits can be arranged at 25p extra. There is to be a meeting of UFOIN on the Sunday, September 11th, at the NUFOIS HQ in Nottingham. Many people may wish to stop overnight for this, thus giving people a chance to have a long evening and morning free for informal discussions on certain topics. Hotel details are available. Will all members interested in attending this conference please contact the Secretary at the editorial address.

MAPIT has always found that arranging Group Meetings is difficult, from the point of members attending a certain location on a certain date. Many reasons can stop members attending, e.g. evening classes, work, too far to travel, no transport, or just not wanting to go. A good many members live outside the Stockport/Manchester area - places such as Stoke, Scunthorpe, Wisbech, Norwich, Southampton, London, etc. MAPIT does not expect these people to attend. Perhaps instead of arranging meetings we should have mini-meetings. By this I mean if ANY MEMBER wishes to visit MAPIT he can do this. We could then arrange, say, three or four members to meet. This way it would be more informal and personal than having ten people sitting side by side, too scared to talk. If you are at all interested in this idea, MAPIT would like to hear from you, anytime.

In this issue of SKYWATCH you will read the feedback (selection) concerning David Frost's proposed "Super UFO Conference". In SW No.23, David Frost stated, "But I am sorry to tell you that I have met with great opposition from the Group named NUFON. When I contacted the Group with the idea, I had the feeling that no one wanted to help me in my idea".

Jenny Randles of the above-mentioned Group (NUFON - Northern UFO Network), wrote to me recently to set the record straight. "One thing I did want to write about was the comments in the last two issues of SKYWATCH (Nos.23/24) by David Frost. I would like you to print a response to this because I find it a little unjust that he should state unchallenged that NUFON was opposed



to his Conference idea. This is not true - and I suggest you tell him so. So far as I know, he never approached anyone else in NUFON and I only answered on behalf of myself - not on behalf of NUFON (how could I?). I did (on more than one occasion - including the most recent on May 14th at Warrington), invite him to the most recent NUFON meetings so he could put his points directly to several groups and individuals; he said he would be there - but was not. The only other thing I did was point out the problems he would face in trying to get people interested, (precisely what he is now bemoaning). I also said I was personally interested in taking part on any committee. So far as I am concerned, David Frost was not put off by me or anyone else at NUFON". Readers may have seen NUFON featured on the BBC2 series, Open Door. It is a liason system for independant UFO organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. It acts as a co-ordination centre for investigation, research and general info. MAPIT, NUFON, and for that matter, any UFO Group, is always interested in ways of improving the subject. The "Super Con" is a good idea, but is it too good to succeed(.

The Ron Markwick article "CONTACTEES" will be finalised in a future issue!

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MEDIA MADNESS - or how to make a fool of people without really trying.

The current UFO Wave which has swamped this country has led to there being a sudden upsurge in media interest. SKYWATCH referred in its last issue to some of this and I think I am able to supply some more information.

I was directly involved in the BBC Documentary programme, 'Out of this World', being first contacted by producer Hugh Burnett in July 1976. I worked closely in conjunction with Charles Bowen on this and met Mr. Burnett personally last Summer. I can only agree with the SKYWATCH comments on the programme, which was, to my mind, a great let-down. I had expected far better from a man who had a deep interest in the subject (although a somewhat biased one). However, his utter insistance on the format of the programme despite our repeated protests that there was not the quqlity of cases to utilise in the UK on the contactee front alone, was, unfortunately, ever present. Consideration was given to backing out of the project, but we decided against this because (and I think the programme vindicated this view) Charles Bowen provided a credible alternative to some of the dubious material presented elsewhere. We could not persuade any respectable contactee witnesses to appear - except for Mrs. Roestenbergs, who faced ridicule very bravely to provide perhaps the only credible case on the whole programme. I am afraid most people discount the Bowles/Pratt fiasco as far from substantiated. It did, incidentally, involve a teleportaion incicent with the car (David Harrison of the M.E.N. was not wrong on that point). Indeed it has now developed into a series of continuing occurrences - and Mrs. Bowles not only has a long history of seeing strange things around the house, but she had been a close ffiend of one of Britains leading UFOlogists in the 1960's (although she claimed to know nothing about the subject).

I pass no judgement on the programme - but it was only what one has come to expect from the BBC - sad to say. Risking total bias, I would say that the only sane thing they have ever carried was when NUFON presented the 'Open Door' feature in October 1975. I am amazed that the Mihistry of Defence let us get away with that. I expected to be locked up in the Tower of London by now, sentenced to drinking BBC canteen tea for ever. (I think I would rather take my chances with an MIB!)

As for the ITV 'Good Afternoon' programme, I was fortunate to see that. Despite the fact that the press all billed it for the next day after it was shown (someone slipped up there.....quite by accident, I'm sure!) I knew it was going out when it did thanks to Charles Bowen, who appeared on it with Professor John Taylor and Captain Woods (the pilot involved in the radar/visual sighting which was suddenly latched on to by all the media about five weeks later. It appears that the media take no notice of 'Good Afternoon'!) The programme was pretty straightforward, though it lasted just twenty minutes and only when Captain Woods began to reach the point of attacking Professor



Taylor with his Trident (and I woke up), did it begin to get anywhere. At that point the harassed lady interviewer (completely lost in the verbal gunfire by this time) signalled the final credits. Charles tells me that the arguments continued afterwards. I doubt if Captain Woods will be getting an autographed copy of 'Superminds' for Christmas.

As far as the programme went it was most interesting. Since there was no control over what happened and it was basically a three-way set-to on why Captain Woods had not seen a weather balloon (though I tend to side with Professor Taylor here and think that he did). We did get the ATV film once again (they will be showing that on Crossroads next!) plus some colour prints taken at Wrexham in January (we have those in hand at the present moment). I don't suppose it did anyone any good, but at least it was fun.

I am surprised at your being so hard on poor David Harrison. I thought, under the usual circumstances, he did a fine job. True, there were small mistakes - but nothing that was important enough to detract from the serious manner in which all of the material was presented. Peter Warrington and myself spent several days with him and were more impressed than with any journalist in the past. A large number of cases came to light following it - some of which proved to be ones of great interest.

I also appear to have been in demand on the radio - pity they never pay me. I did a spot with Peter following the BBC programme and returned to Radio Manchester this morning for a very straightforward interview. What's come over them? Are UFO's suddenly respectable or have the MIB's gone on strike? I am now awaiting a request to appear on Coronation Street. With Bill Roache's interest in UFOlogy (whisper, whisper - he reads Northern UFO News, too), I am awaiting with baited breath the episode when the Adamski Scout Ship lands atop the Rover's Return and out steps a horrible monster with flam shooting out of its nostrils - sorry, Mrs. Sharples!

Today I spoke at length to a fellow from PRIMA Magazine (HE's called Beverley, so I wonder if that is why he works for a Women's Journal). Anyhow, they seem to find UFO's more interesting than David Soul at the moment so they are going to carry a glossy article with pictures. It will be interesting, but I doubt if I will be sticking Gregg Marchant's Bournemouth photo on my wall next to that of Dennis Tueart.....excuse the pause whilst I faint.

Now then, - where was I? Oh yes. UFO's, or Unidentified Footballing Objects ....Dennis Tueart. Oh, it is no good - I can't go on. Suffice it to say that the media seem to be going through a period of wild exuberance about the phenomenon. I wonder if they would still do so if they knew what I know. As I told that man from the magazine, I doubt if UFO's do come from outer space with long-haired Venusian pilots. He said to me, 'Doesn't that remove all of the romance from it? Yes it does! I wonder why I never suggested he write about Dennis Tueart instead?

by JENNY RANGLES.

#### ..... ..... SUPER CONFERENCE FEEDBACK ..... .....

In the last issue of SKYWATCH, David Frost gave you his ideas for a Super UFO Conference. Below are two letters giving their views, comments and ideas on this idea:

"Perhaps I might say a word on your proposed conference. I consider the idea an excellent one (perhaps this should be addressed to Mr. David Frost), and your proposals are very forward looking. I might be worth considering one or two points. One is the national publication. A number of Groups are at the moment working on a shoe-string and the idea of financing further publications might seem beyond their pockets. This might easily be the biggest stumbling block to your very good idea. I'm sure this could be resolved, though. I think it might be to everybodys advantage if we were to steer clear of the BUFORA/CONTACT UK ideas. It seems to me ( a personal opinion only) that this particular approach just is not working. We need something which must catch the public's attention without all the weird trappings which inevitably finds



itself at the forefront of UFOlogical research. There are groups who are researching a particular, or specialised subject. These groups could continue their research for the sake of the National Conference Group as well as their own, giving to the N.C. any information they feel would assist the final outcome. Other than that, no rules should be laid down to any group, and the organising body of the N.C. should answer to the group, other than the other way round. I doubt if any individual group would allow itself to be ruled (taken loosely) by any governing body. They would prefer to carry on as they were".

- (1) The Conference would have to last at least a complete day, not just one evening. This would enable a number of different points to be put forward. Perhaps even a two-day conference?
- (2) If and when the conference is settled, those attending and wishing to speak could give prior notice of the particular subject they will be giving a talk on, enabling the organisers time to work out a balanced programme - either mixing the subjects, or clipping individual subjects together. This would enable those attending who have limited time to be there during their own particular research subject.
- (3) Special guest speakers?
- (4) The conference should steer clear of too much pseudo-religious stuff. Perhaps the interesting subject of ancient astronauts from whom it is supposed we derived our religions ought to suffice. (I must admit to an interest in this subject). The other stuff - I'm sure you know what I mean - has a tendency to bring derision on UFO researchers.
- (5) We should try to encourage a few sceptics from our own circles to attend. They deserve the right to know that UFOlogy is a serious research subject, quite the contrary to how we are put across by the media. They (the media) should also be invited. They'll probably come, anyway!
- (7) A little time, perhaps an hour or two, should be set aside at the end of the conference for question time. A number of speakers should be available as a group to answer questions put by anyone wishing to put one.

They are, of course, just a few thoughts, but there might be some semblance of sense among them.

Yours sincerely, Doug Chaundy, UFO INFO EXCHANGE LIBRARY, Weston-Super-Mare.

"I read about your proposal for a nation-wide UFO conference. Frankly, I do not think it a good idea. I have little enough confidence in the ability of individual groups to co-ordinate their ideas and efforts. It seems to be courting disaster to try and get different groups to overcome their feelings of mutual hostility, jealousy and envy to work together. I am convinced that UFO groups are little more than social clubs for no-so-like-minded individuals, or a bureaucratic framework for organisers and place-seekers. If the amount of effort that is spent in 'organising' these groups, circulating memos, arranging conferences, etc. etc., was actually applied to investigating the problem of UFO's, we might be getting somewhere.

Sorry to sound so negative. I appreciate that conferences do have their use, but mainly as a forum for meeting people and arguing into the small hours in the bar of a hotel. The best UFO investigation and analysis is done by individuals who are not hampered by the demands of some clique of a local (or national) group. I regret that most groups are so inward-looking that they regard any approaches from 'outsiders' as an unwarranted intrusion in their internal affairs. I am not in the least surprised that, as you describe in your MAPIT/SKYWATCH article, you have been met by either hostility or apathy. Leave the groups to their idle vapourings and get out and do some research!

I hope I have not been too much of a disappointment".

Yours sincerely, John Rimmer, Editor MUF08, New Malden, Surrey



MAPIIT Member Robert Bailey sent us the following:

[illegible][illegible]

.....

FEDERATION U.F.O. RESEARCH

On the day the exhibition opened, hundreds of people passed through the exhibition, which consisted of various projects by Steve, Nigel and Mark, and also some material on loan from Tony Pace of BUFORA. In the afternoon more



than 70 people crammed a lecture theatre and it was one of the hottest days this year. They heard an opening speech by Mark Tyrrell with a slide show of the Apollo 11 and 12 lunar missions and lectures by Tony Pace and Peter Warrington, who has close links with NUFON.

Apart from the resultant publicity for the group in the local media, the group's membership was increased to 10 members in one day. They have met on a number of occasions since, and sightings have been investigated by various members. In one respect, FUFOR is very lucky in that most of its members have at one time or another had a UFO experience. So for us the problem is very real, in whatever degree of reality it may exist. Nobody can tell us that the UFO phenomenon is a flight of fancy, no matter how strange it may seem at the time.

STEVE CLEAVER/NIGEL BROWN/MARK A TYRRELL.

.....  
THE SAUCER LECTURER

by Allen H. Greenfield.

Pretending to place my notes back on the speaker's table, I was able to steal a look out at the audience. About 50 or 60 persons were already there; the scheduled time for the lecture was 8 p.m. and it was only about 7.50 now.

Actually, I didn't really expect much more than this -- the saucer business, thank Rouwb, isn't what it once was. In any case, the hall we had rented had a huge seating capacity, so that even a rather large turnout would appear small. This was to make those who did attend feel uncomfortable and part of a lost cause. I was a small part of the Plan.

I could see at the centre of the room, on the right side from where I stood, Weloooh was just taking his seat. He had come this time dressed as a hippie, and he looked the part very well indeed.

Of course, we wouldn't want our people to develop too much of a hippie image, because that might shift the straights right back into the saucer movement, and we wanted anything but that. But Weloooh had a very small part tonight -- all he had to do was to stand up at the right moment and yell, "Fake!", after Raone made his pitch.

But where the hell was Raong? Momentarily, I dropped my paper-sorting ruse, and overtly looked wildly around the room. It was a relief when I realised abruptly that this time he had even fooled me, if only for a moment. There he was, dressed in his 'scientific suit', as we called it. But this time, he had added a small, neatly-trimmed beard, which had come as a surprise to me. One of his own little ideas.

Checking my watch, I could see that it was exactly 8. I gave Reen the signal to begin and he walked over to the speaker's table and began his bit with the p.a. As usual, we had fixed it in such a way so that it would work badly all evening. "One", he began, "testing one - two - three. Test. Testing...." As he went through this I made a last minute check of the slide projector. Perfect.

Four slides were in upside down, and the bulb was all set to burn out right in the middle of the slide lecture. Everything was in order, I was sure, and Reen, having finished his messing with the mike, began the programme.

"Good evening", he offered. His voice was accompanied by an irritating squeal from the public address system, just as we had hoped. "Welcome to the Atlantic Coast Flying Object Convention. We are so glad to see so many of you flying saucer fans here today, and we hope that you will enjoy our programme.

"Now, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our special guest lecturer, an expert on the flying saucer subject, who also has lectured on such important topics as e.s.p. and astrology, Mr. Fieldson H. Henry!"

Clap, clap, clap. The unimpressive sound of applause from the small crowd was absolute music to my ears. I walked slowly to the table, making sure to trip over the mike cable slightly, pushed my glasses slightly off to the side to enhance the crackpot image I was to project, and began.



I started out conservatively enough, discussing the Arnold incident, the Washington sightings of 1952, the Gill case, Cocorro, Michigan, etc. Then I touched on the contactees, keeping it all objective and impersonal. I began the slide lecture, and howed due distress when the projector bulb blew out. Reen went through the motions of searching the hall for an extra bulb, though of course we didn't have one.

(One night last year, while doing this bit, some damned idiot in the audience actually had a bult with him. We had to make do with the inverted slides and the fake-looking photographs to salvage the slide part of the programme).

Anyway, after about 15 minutes of this, during which audience began to fidget pleasingly around in their very uncomfortable chairs, I announced that we would take a short break and then resume the lecture.

Now, the break, you see, is designed to show us how well we are doing on a given evening. If we are doing quite well, about half the people in the audience will not be back. On a poor evening, only one or two leave. One time we were lucky enough to find an unheated hall in the dead of winter, which also had the additional asset of no rest rooms. Only about five persons stayed that time, all, presumably, with heavy coats and fantastic control of bodily functions. And this was back in 1967, when saucer lecturers, even bad ones, were really packing them in. It was some meeting.

After the break this time, I noted we had lost 10 or 15. O.K., but hardly something to rave about. I gave Reen a signal, and he changed the setting on the p.a. so that it would squeal at a slightly more irritating level. I then went on.

"I regret that the slide showing will not be able to go on, but as announced in the newspapers, we are going to have a question-and-answer session. If you have, ah, a question for us?"

Several hands. I picked a fat man in an oversized trench coat. He asked: "Where do the UFO's come from?"

I hedged, still playing it conservative. Then, after a few more such, I recognised Raong. He stood there, tall and impressive, and in that deep tone of voice of his asked, "Isn't it true that you yourself claim contact with the aliens?"

My face, as always, turned an embarrassed red. I went through my evasion act, then told the contact story, filled with contradictions even the tennis show crowd could notice. On cue, Weloooh jumped up, yelled "Fake!" and stalked out of the hall. A couple of people followed him. The rest counted dots on the ceiling, looked at their watches, etc. until the end of the lecture.

Back at the ship, flying on to our next lecture date, Raong asked, for the thousandth time, "Why? Why do they buy such a simple ruse?"

"Perhaps," I said, "because they need to believe it is a fake. If they didn't, well, remember the Orwell broadcast". Off we flew, looking for all the world like a flying saucer, or was it just ball lightning?

.....  
The above article is reprinted from the Paraufologist Vol.1 No.3 by kind permission of Allen H Greenfield. His address is: 1399, De Beers Drive No.6 Tampa, Florida 33612, USA. SKYWATCH also wishes to thank John Rimmer for him supplying us with Allen's address.

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**ECRA:** The Earth Colonisation Research Association is a non-profit-making organisation. They publish "Earth Colonisation Report"; amongst its readers are Dr. Allen Hynek, Erich Von Daniken. One of ECRA's objectives is to collate proof that man's origin lies in the colonising effects of visiting extraterrestrial intelligences. It wishes to liaise with other groups throughout the world. Write to: D.R.P. Wood, President, ECRA., 39, Callender Terrace, Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand.....

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A final word on the Hugh Burnett UFO programme, reprinted from the Daily Mail on the 7th May under the heading of "What in the World":

"Producer Hugh Burnett with his mild obsessions with heaven and hell, good and evil, has always been one of the Beeb's most civilised mavericks. But he has an infuriating habit of involving you, keying you up - and then leaving you wondering if he's just conned you with an almighty mickey-take. You'll love his report on UFO's OUT of this World (BBC1 9.55) - But I'll bet you're not one jot the wiser about whether they exist when you've finished viewing.

"Experts" with apparently blameless credentials are allowed to go on at some length about their researches. But as they talk that gradually emerge as Monsters....affable, intelligent, deeply informed - and daft as brushes. The most sensible people Burnett interviews are, oddly enough, those who have seen Saucers and UFO-nauts (more than one saw the latter as dressed in smart polo-necked jumpers....). But their honesty about what they claim to have seen is undeniable. I feel Burnett could have given us much more. I feel cheated! Perhaps he is sending the UFO Phenomenon up. If so, his hilarious opening sequence of two pythonesque loonies tracking UFO's on Box Hill, near Dorking, couldn't be a better pointer".

-----STAR DATE 17.6.77-----

Many MAPIT members are interested in Sci Fi in book form and on the screen. We received a newsflash from the Star Trek Action Group recently to inform us of an important announcement. Star Trek was perhaps the best programme of its kind ever made and even today repeats are still being shown all around the world. The newsflash contained the following:

"News release from Paramount Television - dated 17.6.77.

Negotiations have been concluded between Gene Roddenberry and Paramount



Television for his services as Executive Producer of the new Star Trek series. The announcement was made today by Gary Nardina, President, Paramount Television and Richard Frank, Vice President, Paramount Pictures Corporation, who has overall responsibility for Paramount Television Service. In making the announcement, Nardina commented, "Naturally, we are delighted to be associated in this venture with Gene Roddenberry. His return to weekly television will insure a quality and integrity of production values that has marked everything he has been associated with; his work has been a credit to the entire television industry. We, at Paramount, feel we are making television history with this renaissance of the "Star Trek" series." Production on the new Star Trek series, perhaps the most legendary of all television series, will begin in the autumn under Roddenberry, the guiding force behind the original. Frank added, "Star Trek will be the foundation for the new Paramount Television Service. It represents our commitment to provide fresh programming to a discerning viewing public". Roddenberry, commenting on the new Star Trek series, said, "We have never really been out of the public eye. Right now re-runs of Star Trek are being seen on 137 stations around the country, with millions of fans all over the world. Our audience was, is and will be there. At the time this announcement is being made, a giant Star Trek convention is being held at the Los Angeles Convention Center. I can assure these fans that the precepts I followed at the beginning of Star Trek will be used for the new production".

Well, in these times of repeats on television it's good to see the rebirth of this series. At the moment we only have Space 1999; The Invaders (which was made ten years ago) and Star Maidens. Not forgetting the never-ending Dr. Who and the interesting Tomorrow People. I am looking forward to seeing Star Trek return to the TV screen and I'm sure a whole new following of youngsters will follow its adventures every week.

.....  
German Boeing reported collision with UFO  
over Liege (Belgium)

The pilot of a German plane with 105 passengers aboard reported being struck by an unidentified flying object when he was in the air over Liege on Monday, April 25th, 1977.

Dozens of people took place in the investigation, conducted by air traffic control, the Ministry of Defence, Air Force, Army, The Royal Meteorological Institute and even an ornithological society.

The Lufthansa Boeing 737 (flight LH 056) had left Nuremberg at 0805 a.m. (Belgium time) with destination London. At about 0900 a.m. the plane was flying over Liege at a height of 7.300 meters when a sudden impact was felt. As the plane was flying over the Elsenborn military training-ground, the pilot feared it was hit by a missile.

The Boeing continued its journey and was fully investigated when landing at London Heathrow Airport. To everybody's astonishment, nothing could be found! Meanwhile, Defence was busy investigating this "UFO". It was established that on Monday (April 25) no target-practice was being held on any of the three Belgian practice-grounds (Elsenborn, Leopoldsburg, Lombardsijde).

Then it was considered the plane had hit a bit bird. But birds normally are not found at a greater height than 1500 meters in Belgium.

Then perhaps it was a weather balloon? But the Air Force had released no balloons that Monday. The one launched by Air Traffic Control at 2.a.m. had landed safely and the meteorological institute also reported that its balloon - released from Ukkel at 6 a.m. - had safely returned.

Air Traffic Control knew of no other planes in the area over Liege. But planes flying higher than 7000 meters are under the supervision of Eurocontrol (at Beek Airport, near Maastricht, Holland). And Eurocontrol confirmed that "an unidentified plane, flying at supersonic speed, had crossed the path of the Lufthansa Boeing within 1000 feet".

Military planes, however, are not controlled by Eurocontrol, but have their own station at Glaaien (Tongeren). Air Force spokesman stated that "one of their jets was indeed flying at supersonic speed at the time of the incident but that it was 30 miles away!"



Apparently it was a lot closer. According to Eurocontrol, the two planes crossed each other with a height difference of only 1000 feet. At this distance, the air displacement caused by the supersonic jet indeed struck the Boeing like a hammer.

The Air Force is now investigating if and by whom a mistake has been made.

At the moment of writing this - April 30, 1977 - no further details are available. And it is hardly likely they will ever be given. Personally, I feel the Eurocontrol explanation is the right one.

Rudy de Groot.

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